

M/035/002

BINGHAM CANYON, UTAH

Dear Friend:

As you are aware, the City of Bingham Canyon, one of the great historical mining towns of the West, recently met its demise. Incorporated at the turn of the century, the city flourished as a center of mining activities of the state, with a population of more than 15,000 barely thirty years ago. But the number of residents thereafter dwindled and the city, beset by the advance of the open pit mine of Kennecott Copper Corporation, found itself no longer able to viably function. On November 2, 1971, the remaining thirteen residents voted to disincorporate the city. Disincorporation proceedings have been completed and the city is now part of our past heritage.

To commemorate and pay tribute to this city and its pioneer residents, a memorial has been established at a site near the former city limits at Leadmine, at the mouth of Bingham Canyon. A ceremony dedicating that memorial as a historical site will be held at 1:30 P.M. on the 20th day of April 1973. It will be attended by governmental, civic and business leaders throughout the state.

Your presence is cordially requested to participate in this historic occasion.

Peter C. Dimas, Mayor
James Xanthos
Evelyn Fontana
Gail Farnsworth

November 20, 1972

LAST CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF BINGHAM CANYON

Kennecott Minerals Company
A Division of Kennecott Corporation
Utah Copper Division
Communications Department
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Kennecott

File -

Bingham Canyon

Natural

Historic Landmark

File -

News Release

COPPERTON, Utah--The public observation area at the Bingham Canyon Mine has been closed temporarily while a new viewpoint overlooking the giant open pit copper operation is under construction.

The Utah Copper Division of Kennecott Minerals Company said today (Monday) the new observation area is expected to be open about May 1, 1982.

The company said the present site had to be closed for the protection of the public because mining activity will be going on in the area immediately above the observation platform and heavy equipment will be moving over the access road used by the public.

The new area will include visitor facilities a few hundred feet north of the present site and a new access road.

An estimated 300,000 persons from every state in the Union and many foreign nations annually visit the Bingham Canyon Mine, the world's largest man-made excavation. It is located 18 miles southwest of Salt Lake City.

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SIGNIFICANT FIRST'S FOR BINGHAM COPPER MINE

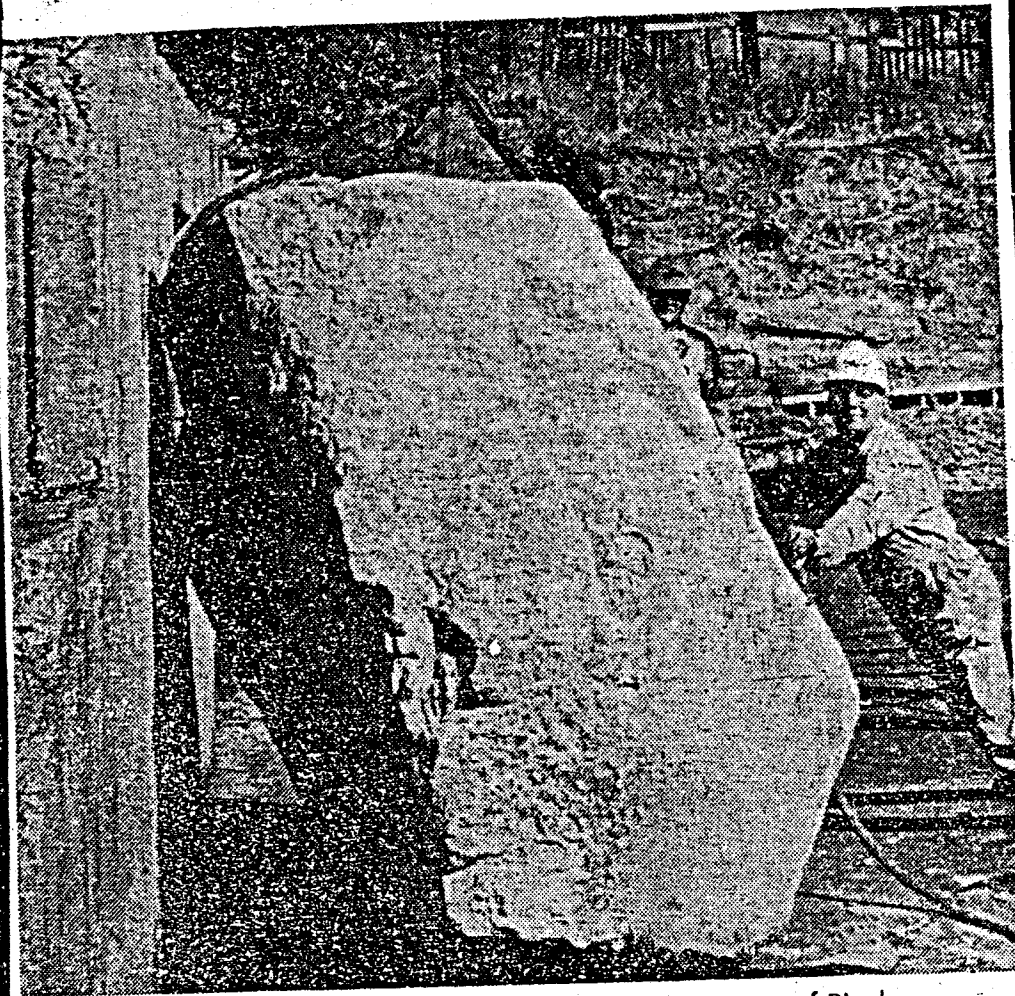
1. Largest quantity of metal produced from a single mine.
2. Largest man-made excavations.
3. First open-cut mining of copper.
4. During World War II more than 1/3 of total allied copper consumption was mined in Bingham.

IMPORTANT PERIODS IN HISTORY OF BINGHAM

1. Pioneer 1848 - 1886, discovery.
2. Promotion 1887 - 1902, development of copper production and distribution system by Enos A. Wall and Samuel Newhouse.
3. Formative years 1903 - 1910, new processes developed, porphyry mining and processing.
4. Growth and expansion from local to world wide corporate enterprises financed by Guggenheim money.

The history of the Bingham Copper mine is an important part of the story of economic development of Utah as well as mining and engineering in general.

The mining and processing of low grade copper ore was unique and the mine remains a man-made wonder.



Unidentified workman places 20-ton monument to town of Bingham.

Big Rock Commemorates Bingham, Town That Was

By JACK MONSON
Deseret News Staff Writer

LEADMINE, Salt Lake County — A 20-ton rock from the Kennecott Copper Corp.'s open pit mine was lowered into place in a parking lot here this morning to serve as a monument to the obliterated town of Bingham.

Almost all traces of the historic mining town have vanished, eaten away by the encroaching copper pit.

Before the town gave up the ghost, the town council appropriated \$1,700 dollars from remaining funds for a suitable monument.

For sometime Kennecott officials have been on the lookout for an appropriate rock

and today, after the 20-ton boulder was approved by James Xanthos, one of Bingham's last councilmen, it was hauled from the mine to the site in Leadmine a small community adjacent to Copperton.

Here, sitting back about 30 feet off the Bingham Canyon highway, it will be a reminder to travelers of a town that once was.

Xanthos said a bronze three by four foot plaque will be placed on the boulder detailing the facts of Bingham's colorful history and subsequent demise. The land for the monument was donated by Jack Tallas and Xanthos said a fence will be placed around the rock.

Earlier plans called for the monument to be up the canyon where the old fire station once stood. But the mine is growing so rapidly, it was not known how long the monument could remain there.

Kennecott donated the rock, which contains copper and other minerals, and also supplied the truck and equipment needed to haul it down the canyon and lower it into place.

It took two tries to get the rock into the proper position. As the crane lifted the rock the first time and the flatbed truck pulled away, the cable on the crane broke and the boulder crunched into the asphalt.

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proposal*

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1st Copy

In August 1848, two young men, Sanford and Thomas Bingham, at the instruction of Brigham Young, settled in this narrow wilderness canyon to herd cattle. In 1850 Bingham was designated as a logging camp which supplied sawmills with timber, much of which was used in the Salt Lake Tabernacle. That same year, Thomas and Sanford took samples of assayed ore to L.D.S. Church officials who advised them not to engage in mining at that time.

The discovery of free gold and silver in 1867 led to the organization of the Lower and Upper Bingham Placer Mining Districts. In 1868 fewer than 100 people lived in Bingham Canyon, by the 1880 Census the town had grown to a population of 1,022.

About 1893, Colonel Enos. A. Wall located ground containing millions of pounds of copper. The Utah Copper Company began large scale mining operations in 1904.

Bingham became incorporated on February 29, 1904, and a third class city, May 28, 1936. Greeks, English, Italians, Armenians, Chinese, Mexicans, Japanese, Austrians were all involved in the history of Bingham.

Bingham was a prosperous mining town which led the nation in the production of copper, but the prosperity which built the city also hastened its death. The land where the city was located is now being made a part of the Utah Copper open pit mine. Bingham was once a roaring town of 15,000. At the 1970 census, 31 people remained in the town. On November 22, 1971, a special proposition to disincorporate the city was passed. After 123 years Bingham was dead.

This site formerly housed the #2 fire station.

History
Salt
Proposal

2nd Copy

THE TOWN OF BINGHAM CANYON

This site formerly housed the No. 2 fire station of a prosperous mining town. The history of the town began in August 1848 when two young Mormon pioneers, Sanford and Thomas Bingham, settled in this narrow wilderness canyon to herd cattle. Within a few years the area became a supplier of timber for local sawmills. Much of the timber used in the construction of the Salt Lake Tabernacle came from this canyon.

In 1850 the Bingham brothers took samples of assayed ore to Brigham Young who advised them not to engage in mining at that time. Following the discovery of silver and gold containing ore in the fall of 1863, the West Mountain Mining District, embracing the entire Oquirrh range, was organized.

In 1868 fewer than one hundred people lived in Bingham Canyon; by 1880 the town had grown to a population of 1,022. About 1893 Colonel Enos A. Wall located ground containing millions of pounds of copper. The Utah Copper Company began large scale mining operations in 1904. The town was incorporated on February 29, 1904. Involved in its history were people of many nations: Greeks, Italians, Armenians, Mexicans, Japanese, Chinese, British, and Austrians.

The prosperous Bingham mine led the nation in the production of copper, but the prosperity which built the town also hastened its death. The land where the town was located is now a part of the Kennecott Copper open pit mine. The 1970 census indicated that the population of Bingham Canyon, once a roaring mining town of 15,000, had dwindled to thirty-one people. On November 22, 1971, a special proposition to disincorporate the town was passed. After 123 years, Bingham Canyon was dead.